

# Colby Warns Leaks Could Wreck Intelligence System

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WASHINGTON—Outgoing CIA Director William E. Colby warned Friday that the nation's intelligence system could be destroyed unless Congress devised better means of protecting secrets confided to it.

In testifying before the Senate Government Operations Committee, Colby complained bitterly about congressional leaks of CIA secrets and called for a sharp reduction in the number of legislators entitled to know what intelligence agencies were doing.

Colby implicitly agreed that Congress had a right to exert greater control over intelligence activities. He suggested that a single Senate-House committee be created to monitor CIA activities but with strong safeguards to prevent leaks of the agency's secrets.

Colby assailed proposals that Congress be briefed in advance on planned covert operations and also attacked present procedures under which eight congressional committees are briefed about covert activities.

"The system won't work," Colby said of the current setup. "Every one of the new projects that were subjected to this process has leaked into the public domain." He did not amplify but apparently was referring to news accounts of covert CIA activity in Angola and Italy.

"The fact is," Colby continued, "that a secret operation conducted precisely according to the procedure set up by the Congress cannot be kept secret. I believe it essential to repeal that procedure and replace it by another which will include provisions for adequate secrecy."

Colby appeared before the Senate committee as part of its efforts to devise better means of enabling the Senate to oversee intelligence operations.

Colby did not address himself directly to the proposal by Sen. Frank Church (D-Ida.), chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, that the Senate create a permanent committee to monitor intelligence operations of all federal agencies.

However, the concept advanced by Church is being strongly condemned by Lt. Gen. Daniel O. Graham, who retired on Jan. 1 as director of the

among members of Congress. A copy of the paper was obtained by The Times.

Graham's paper, entitled "Reorganization of U.S. Intelligence," does not mention Church. But it says that vesting sweeping oversight power in a single committee "would wreak havoc with intelligence."

While agreeing that Congress is entitled to exercise closer supervision of intelligence operations, Graham suggested that oversight functions be left with the Senate and House Armed Services Committee, as was the custom in the past, or be vested in a joint committee as proposed by Colby.

Graham reportedly quit as chief of the Defense Intelligence Agency in protest against President Ford's firing of James R. Schlesinger as secretary of defense last October. Colby was dropped at the same time but was asked to stay on until the Senate acted on the nomination of George Bush as his successor. It will vote on the nomination Tuesday.

Although there is considerable opposition to Bush because of his past roles as Republican national chairman and as a Republican congressman from Texas, his critics conceded he probably will be approved.

"I doubt there will be more than 20 to 30 votes against him," Sen. Thomas J. McIntyre (D-N.H.), leader of the opposition to Bush, said in an interview.

McIntyre said he had nothing personal against Bush but felt that no one with a political background should head the CIA.

In his testimony, Colby suggested that there might have been too much stress on secrecy about intelligence operations in years past.

"But," he continued, "it is essential

that the pendulum not swing so far as to destroy the necessary secrecy of intelligence, or destroy intelligence itself in the process."

Deploring proposals that Congress be advised in advance of plans for covert operations, Colby said:

"We cannot conduct covert operations if a committee puts out a report which refers to an activity which leaves out the name of the country or individual concerned but gives enough evidence for any amateur sleuth to identify it beyond a shadow of a doubt."

Under questioning, Colby sharply disputed allegations that the CIA itself might have leaked secret information, such as data on political activity in Italy, to put Congress in a bad light.

Another witness, McGeorge Bundy, national security adviser in the Kennedy administration, said it was wrong to attribute disclosure of the CIA's Angolan operation to Congress. He said such large-scale operations could not under present conditions "remain unattributed or unadmitted for any significant length of time."